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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) (1) The Collector has been instructed to adopt the following measures to check the rise in prices :—

(i) to open more fair price shops in areas where prices show a tendency to rise abnormally.

(ii) to ensure that all fair price shops keep adequate stocks for issue to the consumers and to issue stocks to the consumers at the prescribed scale when demanded.

(2) The fair price shops in the ex-statutory rationed urban areas and the ration shops in the informally rationed areas of the district are being continued. Four ounces of rice and 6 ounces of other grains in the ex-statutory rationed urban areas and 7 ounces of rice and 5 ounces of other grains in the informally rationed areas are being issued.

(3) The Collector has also been instructed to take vigilant steps to stop smuggling of paddy and rice from the district and also to requisition paddy and rice if necessary from the hoarders under the provisions contained in the Food-grains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, 1952, in order to bring down the open market prices of the commodities.

(4) The South Kanara Central Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Mangalore, has been permitted to import 2,000 tons of rice from Coorg on their own account and to distribute the stock in the district at reasonable prices to be fixed by the Collector.

(5) The Collector has instructed the local Revenue Officials to keep a close watch on the situation and to take special measures to bring down the price in their respective jurisdiction by contacting big merchants and land owners and warning them against artificial inflation of prices and to form non-official committees in all important centres for securing rice for sale to the poorer classes of people at lower rates."

Capacity of the Salaputhur tank in South Arcot.

* 880 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Salaputhur tank with its present capacity can irrigate the entire ayacut under it in Nallan Pillai Pethal, Gingee taluk, South Arcot district ; and

(b) if not, how many acres of land can it irrigate?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) 103 acres."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Next question No. 881."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, a similar question like question No. 880, i.e., the question that was just now answered,

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has come before the House on two or three occasions, but no supplementaries were allowed then. As this is a very important question I request you to kindly allow us to put a few supplementary questions."

Mr. SPEAKER :—"As the question referred to by the hon. Member might have been entered last in the list on previous occasions also, supplementaries might not have been allowed then also. It is already 9-10 a.m. I have passed the question-time. We are now taking up the time of the House which has to be utilized for considering other business placed on the agenda."

Sri K. V. RAMASWAMY:—"இது ரொம்ப முக்கியமான கேள்வி. ஆகையால் இதை நாளைக்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாமென்று நினைக்கிறேன்."

Mr. SPEAKER :—"ஒவ்வொரு நாளைக்கும் நான் 40 கேள்விகளை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இருந்தாலும் சரி, நாளைக்கே எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாம்."

Issue of licences for tapping sweet toddy to ex-toddy tappers, Kunnathur.

* 882 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the licences for tapping sweet toddy issued to ex-toddy tappers of Kunnathur expired during the year 1953; and

(*b*) when the licences were re-issued for the same?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—"(*a*) On 30th September 1953.

"(*b*) The licences were issued on varying dates from October 1953 to January 1954."

Mr. SPEAKER :—"Question No. 883."

Sri G. GOVINDAN :—"இதுவும் ரொம்ப முக்கியமாகவே தோன்றுகிறது. ஆகையால் இதையும் நாளைக்கு வைத்துக் கொள்ளலாமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

Mr. SPEAKER :—"All right. Question No. 883 may be taken up to-morrow."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* PROMULGATION OF ORDERS UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE MADRAS CITY POLICE ACT, PROHIBITING MEETINGS AND PROCESSIONS IN THE CITY.

Mr. SPEAKER :—"Hon. Member Sri S. Ramalingam has given notice of an adjournment motion which reads as follows :—

'That the House be adjourned to discuss an urgent matter of public importance namely the action of the Government prohibiting the holding of any meeting, gathering, procession, or demonstration in the City under an order dated 13th, made by the Commissioner of Police under section 41 of the Madras City Police Act and thereby curtailing the civil liberties of the citizens.'

I wish to hear what Mr. Ramalingam wishes to say."